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SENEGAL

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USAID donates pesticides, equipment for war on locusts in Mauritania and Senegal

The U.S. Government has donated pesticides, field radios and other equipment totaling over \$880,000 to assist Mauritania and Senegal in their ongoing campaign to control locusts and protect farms and pastureland.

The donation comes in the wake of a month of successful aerial spraying campaigns funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which has contributed over \$15 million in a regional effort to combat the worst infestation of locusts hitting West Africa in two decades.

Among the items presented to Mauritania's Anti-Locust Center (CLAA -- Centre de Lutte Anti-acridienne), at a value of over \$588,000, include 49,200 liters of pesticide, 4,900 liters of jet fuel with a fuel bladder, 14 field radio units, 150 suits of personal protective gear for use when ground spraying, a power generator, seven global positioning system (GPS) units for search teams tracking locusts in the field, and two laptop computers. Some 27,000 liters of the pesticides have been given to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, which in turn will donate this supply to the CLAA.



A young locust at work in northern Senegal.

In addition, USAID has donated an aid package of nearly \$295,000 to Senegal's Ministry of Agriculture. This include 14,000 liters of pesticide, 14,140 liters of jet fuel, a fuel bladder, 14 field radio units, 150 suits of personal protective gear for ground spraying and 15 GPS units.

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USAID donated huge quantities of pesticides to a regional effort to combat locust infestation.

International Seminar on Anti-Locust Measures in Dakar

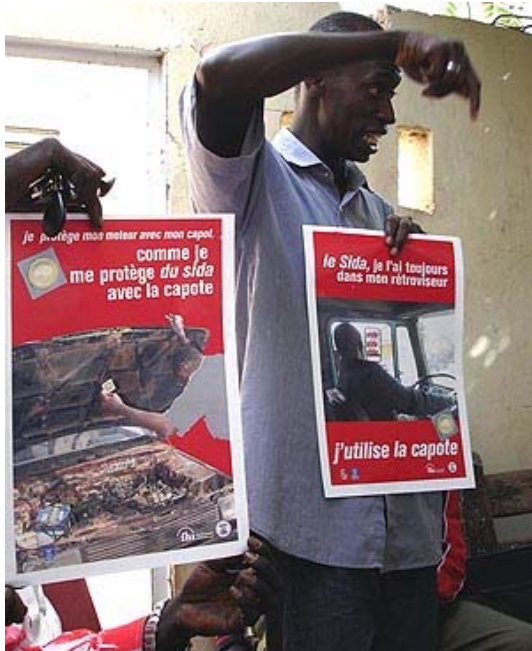
A three-day international scientific seminar was held in Dakar from January 11-13 on the locust invasion threatening food security in several African nations. The seminar, which was organized by the Senegalese Ministry of Agriculture, included officials from locust-infested countries, scientists, and experts from such organizations as the Food and Agriculture Organization and (FAO) and USAID.

MCC team to launch negotiations with Government of Senegal on proposal

A team from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is to visit Dakar by early February to begin negotiations with the Government of Senegal on its infrastructure development proposal for the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA). Senegal, one of the top performers among countries achieving eligibility status to the MCA, is proposing a large-scale industrial area outside the congested capital of Dakar to draw private sector investors interesting in exporting products grown and/or processed in Senegal.

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A major aspect of the proposal is to improve road transport from Dakar to the rest of the country by constructing additional routes out of the capital to the industrial zone at Diamniado, about 20 miles away. Currently there is only one main road out of Dakar. The proposed site would also include large truck depots near Diamniado, a move that would limit the number of large vehicles currently slowing traffic in the capital. About 25 percent of Senegal's 10 million people live in the Dakar area.



USAID/Senegal and its partners inform transport workers about HIV/AIDS.

USAID/Senegal designs strategy

USAID/Senegal will hold a one-day retreat on January 18 to kick-off the design of the Mission's next Strategy Statement which will be submitted to USAID/Washington in October 2005. The purpose of the retreat is threefold: (1) to identify the key development challenges Senegal faces; (2) to analyze major problems impacting USAID foreign interests that foreign assistance will address; and (3) to develop an action plan to guide the Mission through the design process including the consultative process that the Mission will undertake with the private sector, the government, civil society and U.S. Government stakeholders. Undertaking a design FY 2005 presents a special challenge since the development of the Bureau's framework and the Mission's Strategy Statement

will move forward on parallel tracks. To ensure that the proposed statement is fully consistent with the Bureau's Framework, the Mission plans to actively participate in USAID/W sector working groups and to dialogue closely with AF/DP and the desk.

NGOs: Inefficient Spending Hampers HIV/AIDS Programs

A group of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) has found that Senegal, which now has one of Africa's lowest HIV prevalence rates, could see a rise in infection figures if existing international resources are not used more efficiently. A coalition of five NGOs has called for a review of the government's current policies. The group criticized the national AIDS campaign for failing to provide programs for orphans and sex workers, as well as the absence of testing centers outside the capital. A survey released last month shows that eight of Senegal's 12 regions had an infection rate of two percent or higher. The Kolda region on the Guinea-Bissau border was the worst, with 2.8 percent.

National Assembly passes controversial amnesty bill

The Senegalese National Assembly on January 7 passed a controversial amnesty bill benefiting those involved in the 1993 assassination of Judge Babacar Seye, Vice President of the Constitutional Council. Seventy ruling Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS) members voted for the bill, while 27 opposition members opposed it. Human rights groups had denounced the bill, which applies to all persons accused of violations in elections between 1984 and 2004 as well as all those associated with Seye's murder. Opponents charge that the bill, which would stop all investigations into the slaying, also protects senior PDS officials who were accused of breaking the election law during parliamentary elections in 2001 and local polls in 2002. Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade, an opposition leader when the killing took place, had been suspected of involvement in Seye's assassination, but was acquitted by the court that tried the case. After assuming the presidency, he pardoned the three men jailed for the assassination. The bill will become law once it is signed by President Wade.

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